

THE BRISCOE WESTERN ART MUSEUM PROJECT:
A Historical and Archival Research
Of the Future Location

By
Kristi Miller Ulrich



Prepared for:
The National Western Art Foundation
210 West Market Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205

Prepared by:
Center for Archaeological Research
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Abstract:

In April of 2007, The National Western Art Foundation contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to conduct archival research of the plot of land that will be the future site of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The purpose of the project was to investigate the history of the property located adjacent to the building formerly known as the Hertzberg Circus Museum. The archival research utilized deed records, historic maps, photograph, and the records of the San Antonio and Casino Club to document the history of the project area and its importance to the development of society in San Antonio. The background of the project area was researched from the colonial period in San Antonio to present day. The results of the research show that only small areas of undisturbed deposits may remain in the area to be impacted by the proposed construction. Nonetheless, given the lack of previous archaeological work in the area, in combination with its proximity to the San Antonio River, CAR proposes construction monitoring of a small portion of the new building footprint to ensure that no significant deposits are present that may be disturbed by the planned construction.

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Chapter 1: Introduction

In May of 2007, The National Western Art Foundation of San Antonio, Texas contracted with the Center for Archaeological Research (CAR) of The University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) to conduct archival research associated with the location of the Briscoe Western Art Museum. The Museum is to be housed in the building formally known as the Hertzberg Circus Museum, though the plan is to construct an additional wing on the property immediately to the east. The purpose of the project is to highlight the importance of the project area in relation to the history of San Antonio. This report presents the archival and historical background research conducted on the future site of the Briscoe Western Art Museum, specifically the plot of land that will be the site of the addition.

Location of the Project Area

The area examined during the course of the research is located in downtown San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas (Figure 1-1). The property is found at the corner of S. Presa Street and E. Market Street, between the San Antonio River and S. Presa (Figure 1-2). The project area is located in the heart of downtown within a short distance from several popular sites. Mission San Antonio de Valero, commonly known as the Alamo, is located approximately 376 meters to the northeast. The site of La Villita is located approximately 180 meters to the south. The Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center is located approximately 150 meters to the southeast. The Tower of Americas is approximately 650 meters to the southeast. The project area is located just north of the southern part of the horseshoe of the San Antonio River in downtown San Antonio.

The project area covers New City Block (NCB) 161 Lots 12 and 13.

Scope of Work

This project was undertaken to determine the historical background and significance of the site that will be impacted by construction of the Briscoe Western Art Museum in San Antonio. An extension of the new museum will be constructed in the immediate vicinity of the Hertzberg Circus Museum building near the corner of S. Presa and Market Streets. A part of the Briscoe Western Art Museum will occupy the still standing former Hertzberg Museum building. No subsurface impacts are anticipated with this portion of the Museum and therefore, the information presented in the report specifically relate to the area that will be affected by the construction of the new addition as seen in Figure 1-2. The currently standing SAWs pump station building is not located within the project area.

The services described herein are designed to aid in obtaining cultural resources clearance from the Texas Historical Commission, the State oversight agency, and the City of San Antonio's Historic Preservation Office. To aid in gaining the appropriate clearances, CAR proposed to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of all previous archaeological projects within and in the vicinity of the lot that will house the proposed building by consulting The Texas Archeological Research Laboratory, The Texas Historical Commission's Archaeological Sites Atlas and The Records of the Center for Archaeological Research.
2. Conduct a comprehensive review of all available archival data, historic documents and maps beginning with the Spanish Mission and Colonization Period (1528) and continuing through the first decades of the 20th Century focusing on the vicinity of the lot that will house the proposed building.
3. Search for and compile existing historic photographs, if available, by utilizing The Alamo Archives and The Institute of Texan Cultures.
3. Reconstruct the ownership history of the target lot.
5. Determine the sequence of construction and types of buildings that stood on the lot in question using Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.
6. Brief site visit to photo-document current conditions.

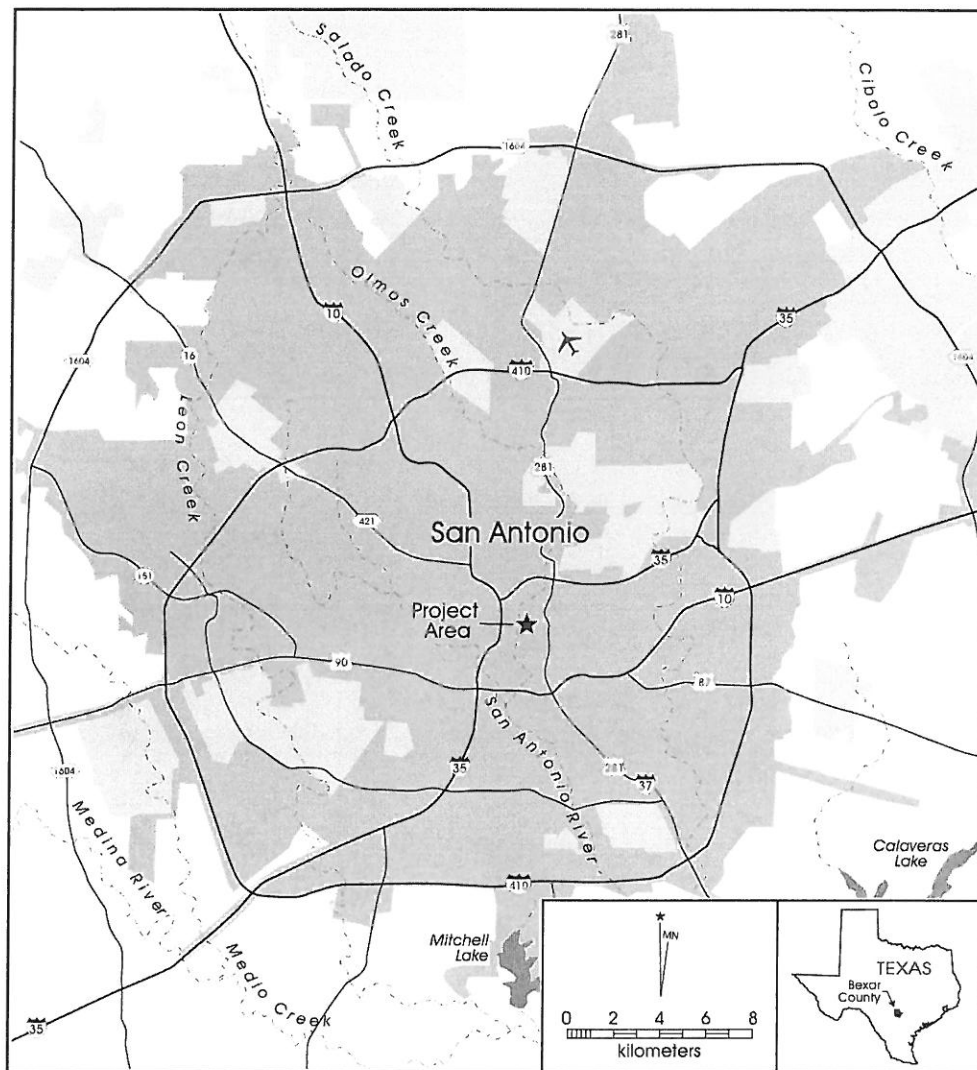


Figure 1-1. Location of the project area within the city of San Antonio.

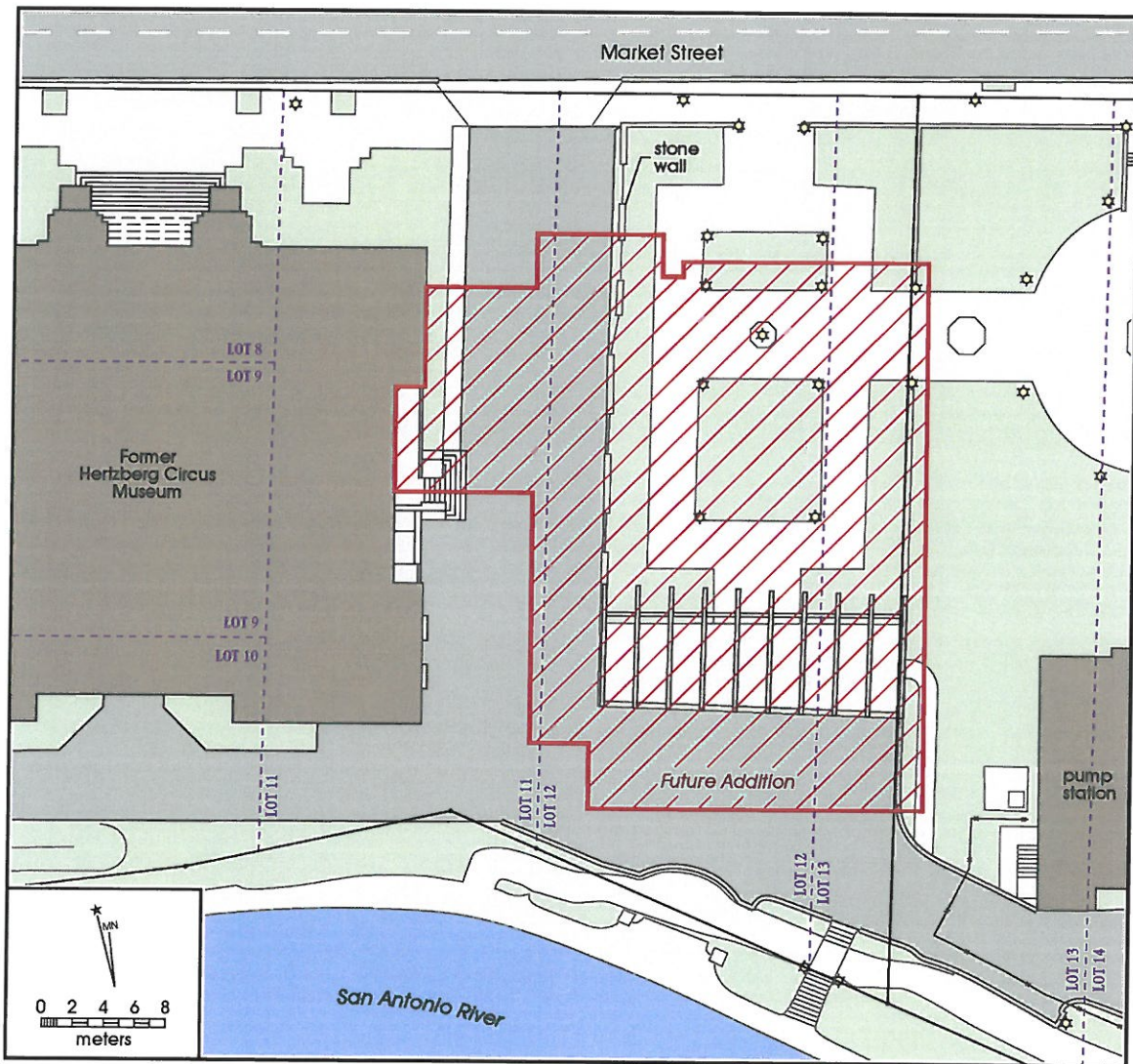


Figure 1-2. Map of the Briscoe Art Museum project area.

7. Summarize the types of historic properties (i.e., prehistoric and historic archeological sites) that are found or may be expected within the project area.

To investigate the property, the author made use of deed records, historic maps, and photographs that documented the history of the area. The records utilized included the Bexar County Archives, Spanish Archives (BCA, SA), the Bexar County Deed Records (BCDR), and the San Antonio and Casino Club Records (SACCR). Additional information was gathered from various publications highlighting the use of the nearby communities as well as the sociocultural history of San Antonio.

Chapter 2: Spanish Colonial Use of the Project Area

Early ownership of the Site Location

Permanent Spanish occupation of San Antonio began in 1716 with the return of Father Antonio de San Buenaventura y Olivares to the site he had visited seven years prior. The Marques de Valero, Viceroy of New Spain, granted Olivares permission to found a mission on the headwaters of the San Antonio River (de la Teja 1995). The original location of Mission San Antonio de Valero was near San Pedro Springs, but the mission was moved by 1724 to the current location in the heart of present-day downtown San Antonio. The project area is located approximately 376 meters south west of the Mission Church, commonly referred to today as the Alamo. The project area is found within the Great Bend of the San Antonio River, and due to this location, the area was not irrigated by use of *acequias*.

The project area is found on a plot of land referred to on historical maps as *El Potrero*, which translates to "the pastureland" (Figure 2-1). Not much is specifically known about this area until later in San Antonian history, but it is possible that the land was utilized as pasture for livestock, or for small gardens to help support the mission and local community. A large *jacal* structure was built in the *El Potrero* towards the later part of the mission period somewhere within the *El Potrero* to house the visiting Comanches (Anne A. Fox personal communication 2007). The parcel of land may have been included in what was known as the Upper Labors (Cox 2005:43).

Deed records indicate that the property including the project area was owned prior to 1837 by Antonio Torres (BCDR B1:87). An exact description of the land was not included in the deed, though Torres sold the property to John (Jno) McMullen, who is referred to in later records.

The Road System

After the founding of Mission San Antonio de Valero, the development of travel routes occurred utilizing San Antonio as a hub to provide routes to East Texas, Goliad and Laredo. In 1689, Alonso De Leon began blazing the first route of the Camino Real (McGraw et al 1998). San Antonio became one of main thoroughfares of the Camino Real. In Texas, the Camino Real was not one main route, rather a system of roads to be able to access the vast Texas Territory. Three routes radiated from San Antonio during the Spanish Colonial period in Texas. One of these routes was known as *el camino de en medio* (Lower Presidio Road), which led from San Antonio heading south through several branches of the Camino Real. Portions of the Lower Presidio Road passed by the present-day towns of Poteet and Pleasanton, before merging again to continue on to San Juan Bautista. Another branch passed through Laredo, across the Rio Grande and headed to Monterrey. This San Antonio-Laredo route was utilized quite frequently between 1755 and 1860, acting as the main route of commerce between Louisiana, Texas, and Mexico (McGraw et al. 1998:160). The San Antonio-Laredo Road was used by detachments of the Bexar Presidio to meet the convoys carrying supplies from Mexico City during the mid-eighteenth century. Goods were moved in both directions along the Camino Real system, with freight charges being calculated based on the degree of difficulty of moving the goods. Increase threats of native attacks, poor conditions of the roads, and a long distance would lead to increased freight charges.

The *El Potrero* was the end point of the road system between the missions of San Antonio that skirted the west portion of La Villita. The route was referred to as Camino de Concepción, leading to Mission San José via Mission Concepción. Camino de Concepción connected to the Camino de San Juan that extended to Mission Espada via Mission San Juan.

Within the *El Potrero*, the *Calle de Calabosa* provided a route from the *Plaza de las Islas* to the Great Bend of the San Antonio River. *Calle de Presidio* did much the same, but also offered a river crossing.

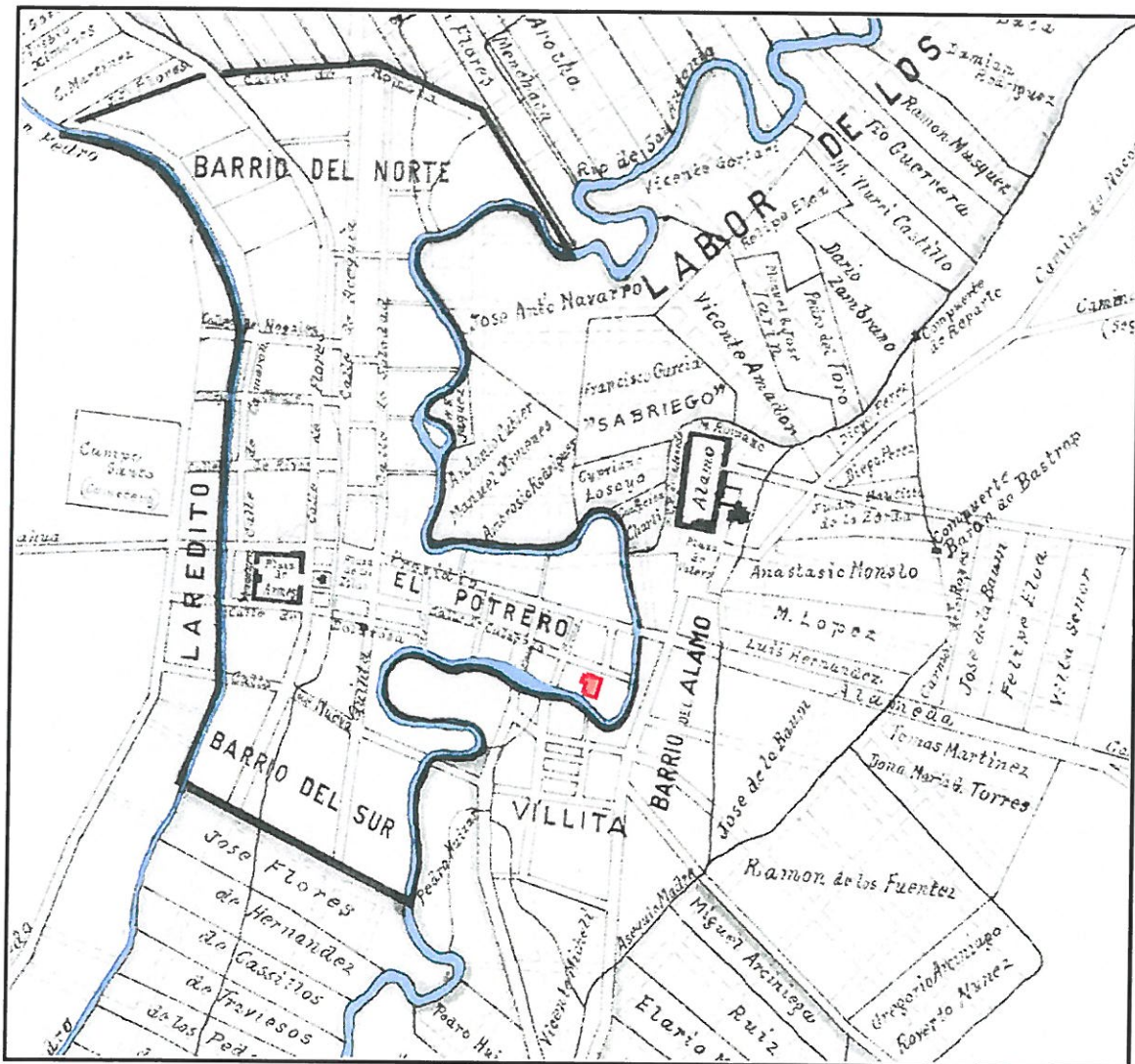


Figure 2-1. Map of Old San Antonio de Bexar as it was in 1837, drawn in 1912 by John D. Rullman. The current project area is highlighted in red.

The connecting portion of road on the east side of the river was referred to as *Alameda*. *Calle de Calabosa* later became Market Street, providing opportunities for commerce and social activities beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. *Calle de Presidio* later became Commerce Street, which experienced much larger growth, resulting in the need to widen the road in 1913 (Fisher 2007).

San Antonio relied on the Camino Real system to import and export goods. The later part of the eighteenth century saw the Camino Real system being utilized during cattle drives. At times, the drive could last up to three months from Natchitoches to Laredo (McGraw et al. 1998). The road system was the only means of travel until the late nineteenth century. Stagecoach companies fought for mail contracts to provide their main source of income. During the later part of the nineteenth century, if a stagecoach line lost its mail contract, the company would soon go out of business (Thonhoff 1971). More than 50 stagecoach lines were in operation in and around San Antonio between 1847 and 1881.

Chapter 3: Mid-Nineteenth Century Life within the Project

Area

The parcel of land examined during this project falls within the Great Bend of the San Antonio River. As mentioned in the previous chapter, Antonio Torres conveyed property to John (Jno) Mc Mullen that contained the project area in 1837. The McMullen heirs later conveyed the property to Jacob Waelder in April of 1854 (BCDR M1:284). On December 13, 1856, Jacob Waelder conveyed the property to L. Zook, A. Nette, A. Schloeman, CH. Elmendorf, and H. F. Oswald.

During the mid-nineteenth century, San Antonio's population began to increase with the arrival of diverse ethnic groups between 1860 and 1880. The city boomed with the focus shifting from agriculture to manufacturing and commerce. By 1877, the Southern Pacific Railroad connected San Antonio to the rest of the nation. The eastern part of the city became dominated by German immigrants by 1870. The influx of the German immigrants into Texas began shortly after Texas became part of the United States (Bieseke 1930). This led to the creation of an organization that promoted cultural and intellectual activities for the German population.

In 1854, the San Antonio Casino Club was organized and was the city's first social club. In 1857, the organization was incorporated by the State of Texas as the Casino Association. The charter membership consisted of 106 German Texan men (Cameron 2007). The property purchased in 1856 by Zook, Nette, Schloeman, Elmendorf and Oswald was used as the site for the Casino Association's headquarters. By 1858, the Casino Hall was formally opened, with a bar and card tables, a library, a great hall for dancing and theater, and a salon and lounge (Cameron 2007). It appears that the building was constructed of cut limestone, typical of German architecture during that time period. The building had a 400 person seating capacity for the plays and concerts that were held throughout the year (Jennings 1998; 123). The Casino Association had the "object of promoting literary pursuits, by which expression was understood the presentation of plays" (Bieseke 1930:222). Membership was limited to men of German heritage, but was open to U.S. Military officers stationed in San Antonio (SACCR 1978; Jennings 1998). Notable military officials that visited the Casino Hall included Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant (SACCR 2007; Cameron 2007). Prominent members included C. A. Goeth, W. C. A. Thielepape, and Albert and Ernst Steves (SACCR 2007; Bybee 1980). The majority of the business and conversation conducted at the Casino Club during the early years was in German.

By the mid 1860s, the Casino Club required an addition to the present structure to accommodate its growing membership. In 1866, plans for the addition of a Western Wing were well underway. The plans called for a basement "9 feet from floor to floor" with walls 21 inches thick. The guidelines for the foundation stated that:

The foundation shall be dug to the hard ground, and if hard ground is found at the depth of the floor of the basement, then the foundation shall reach at least one floor below said floor (SACCR 1866).

The soil from creating the basement and addition was to be "removed away from the lot" (SACCR 1866). The front of the addition was to be of cut stone, similar to the existing building and the typical German style architecture of the area (Figure 3-1). The addition allowed room for a bowling alley and billiard tables. The bowling alley was most likely used for ninepin bowling. This form of bowling was common at German establishments that were male socializing clubs. During the 1870s, Texas saw an increase in the number of ninepin bowling alleys, especially in German communities and towns (LeCompte 2007).

Though the Casino Club was a male-only social club, the Association held regular events and special functions for the members' entire family. The club was open daily to the male members, but would hold an entertainment event followed by a dance once a month. Amateur plays and concerts were the common

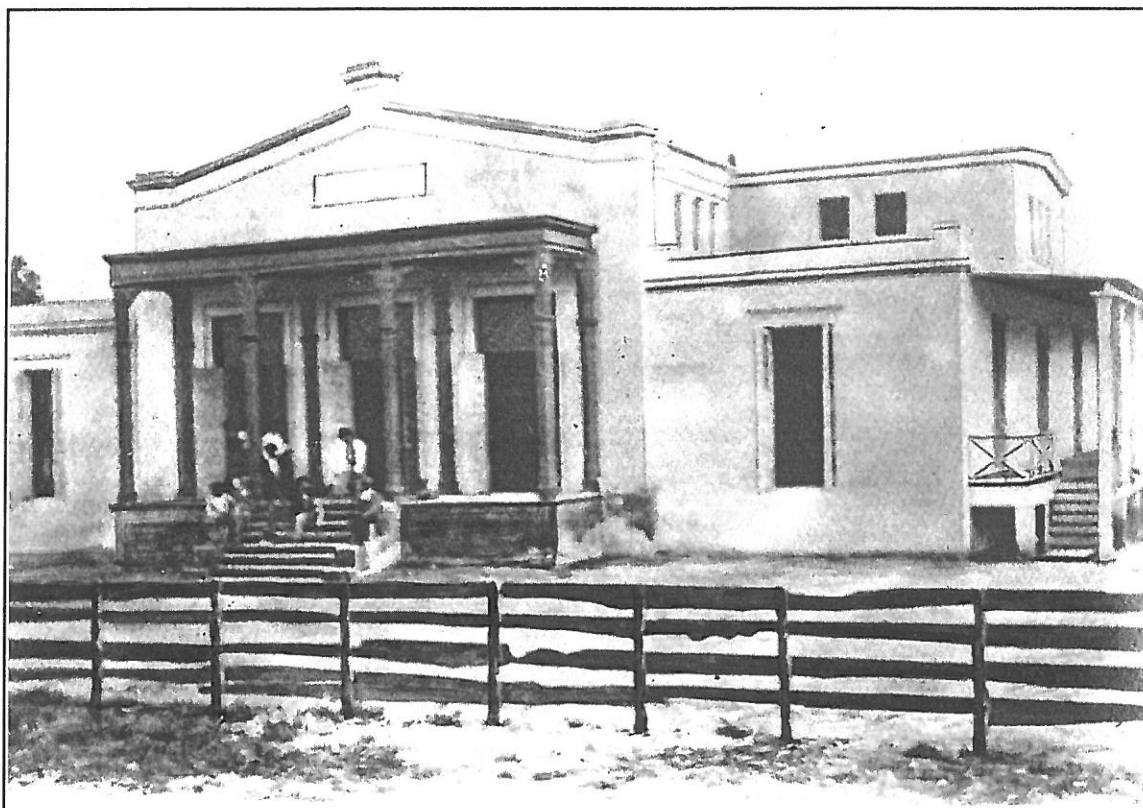


Figure 3-1. *Early photograph of the front of the Casino Club. Courtesy of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 081-0515.*

form of entertainment, but the Casino Club did see its share of distinguished performers and guest speakers. Special guest included Adelina Patti, a highly regarded Italian opera singer of the 19th century, Edwin Booth, an actor made famous for his playing of *Hamlet*, and Henry Ward Beecher, brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe and a prominent preacher who was an advocate of women's suffrage, temperance, abolition of slavery and Darwin's theory of evolution. On December 15, 1879, William F. Cody, known as "Buffalo Bill", lectured to members at the Casino Club (SACCR 1978).

The largest gala that was held at the Casino Club was the New Year's Eve Ball. This was the premier social gathering of the German society. The night consisted of an elegant supper, champagne, and dancing in the New Year. At this event, club members would introduce their of-age daughters as debutants. During the year, the children had two special galas, the Kinderball and the Maskenball (Cameron 2007).

With the railroad system making traveling to San Antonio much easier, the membership of the Casino Club soared to a peak of 350 men between the 1880s and the turn of the century. Out of town members, business, and entertainers could now easily utilize the Casino Club amenities. The main hall was once again remodeled, this time to be able to accommodate a gathering of 700 individuals. During the remainder of the nineteenth century the club was successful in drawing memberships, hosting events, and providing a social atmosphere to the German community.

The southwest portion of the lot (Lot 11) to the west of the Casino Club, on which the former Hertzberg Museum stands, had been used as a foundry until the mid-1880s. The foundry was depicted on both of Koch's 1873 and 1886 Bird's Eye View paintings of San Antonio (Figure 3-2, Figure 3-3). When the foundry was shut down, the structures were removed by 1888, though the brick wall that existed between the Casino Club and the foundry remained (Figure 3-4). The Carnegie Library (former Hertzberg Museum) was later built over the footprint of the foundry.

In addition to the foundry, the 1885 through 1892 Sanborn maps show a complex of buildings near the northeast corner of Lot 11 as well as two smaller buildings set back from Market Street immediately abutting the stone wall dividing Lots 11 and 12. The small complex of buildings and the two isolated structures set behind them on Lot 11 are shown on Koch's 1886 Bird's Eye View. The 1873 Bird's Eye View shows one large structure with one or two abutting structures located immediately west of the Casino Club. It is, however, unclear whether these structures are the same as those forming the complex on the 1885 through 1892 Sanborn maps. The smaller structures along the stone wall are not visible.

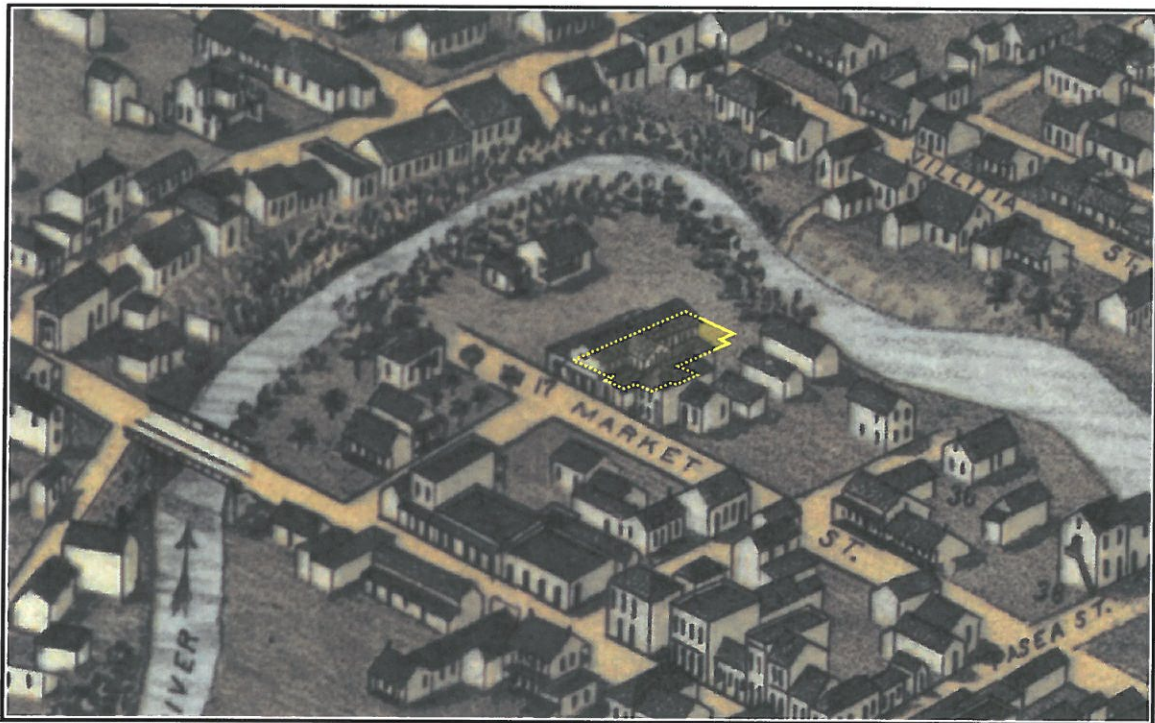


Figure 3-2. *Augustus Koch's 1873 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio showing the Casino Club on Market Street.*

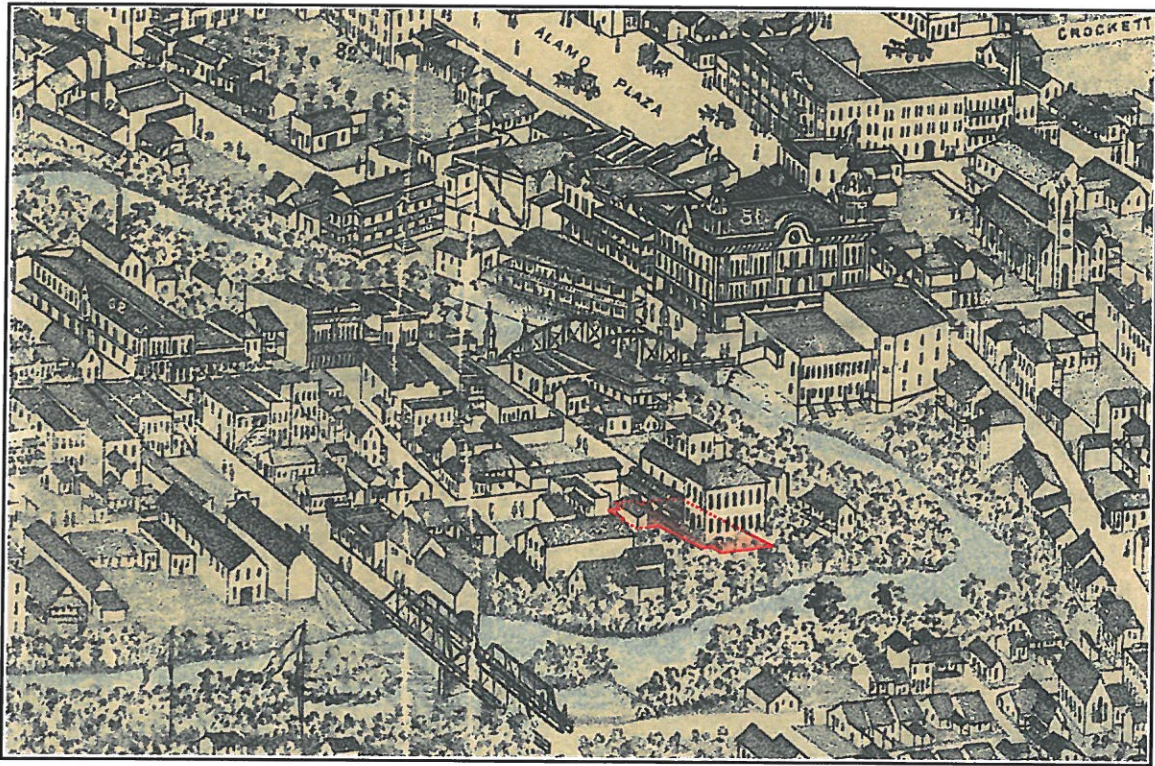


Figure 3-3. *Augustus Koch's 1886 Bird's Eye View of San Antonio showing the Casino Club on Market Street.*

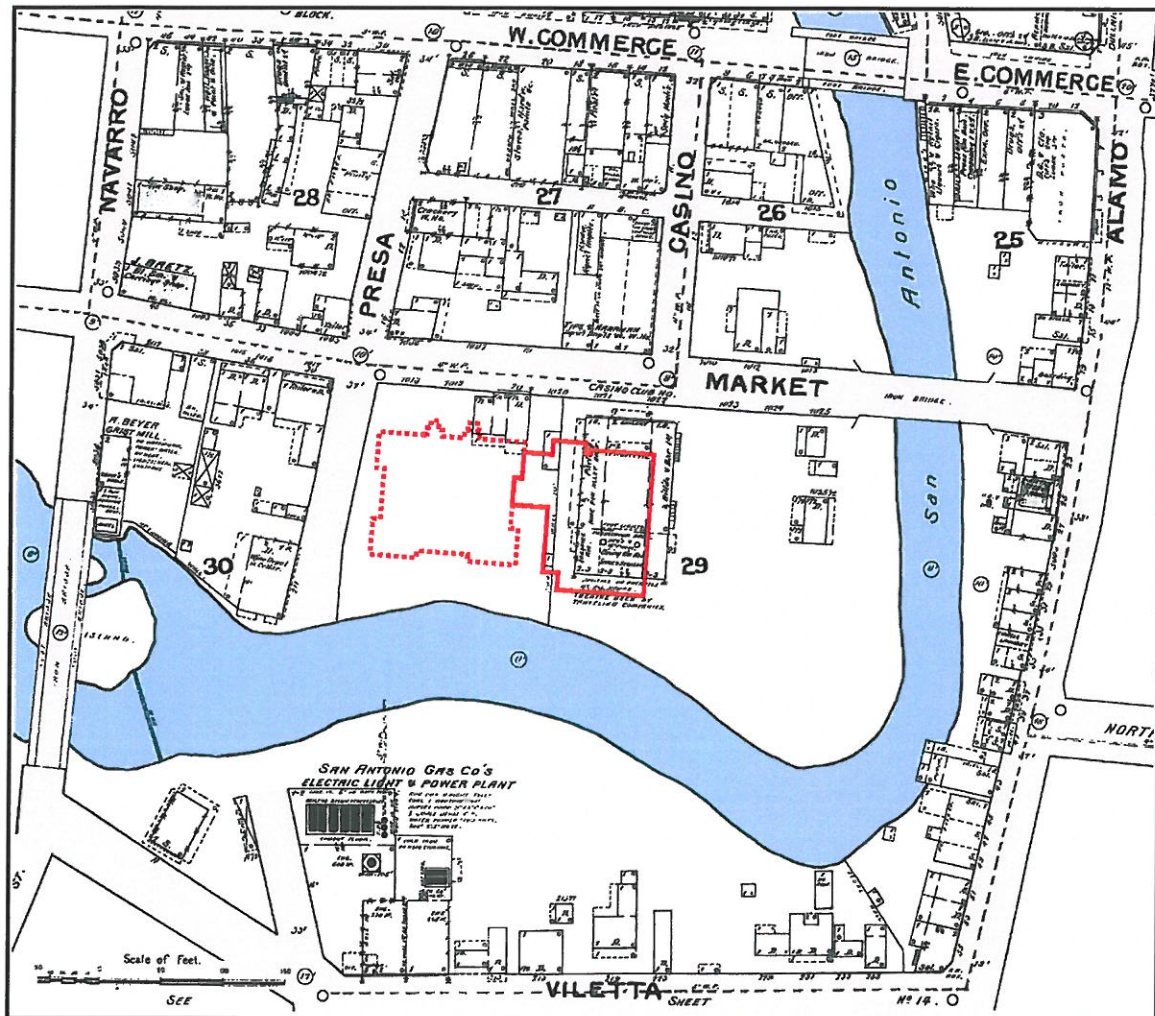


Figure 3-4. An 1892 Sanborn map of the project area.

Chapter 4: The Casino Club during the Twentieth Century

During the 1890s, Conrad Goeth, who had been an active member of the Casino Club, began his service as the Association's President. He brought the Casino Association into the Twentieth Century and kept close ties to the German Counsel. In 1905, Goeth arranged for the officers of the *S.M.S. Bremen*, in port at Galveston, to make a trip to San Antonio (SACCR). When World War I began in 1914, the German communities started to experience some backlash. By 1915, the Texas Senate requested that all diplomatic ties to Germany be severed. In 1917, the German community in Texas was subjected to increased backlash after the Zimmermann Telegram was revealed. This telegram was sent to the German Ambassador in Mexico to entice the Mexican government to enter into an alliance with Germany to help keep the US out of the war. In return for joining the alliance, Germany promised Mexico financial assistance and help in regaining the territories Mexico lost in the Mexican-American War. The German community throughout Texas had already begun their campaign to provide aid to war victims in Europe (SACCR), though they received heavy criticism when the aid was directed towards German and Austro-Hungarian areas afflicted by the war. Reacting to the hostile attitudes of the non-German society in Texas, the Germans in areas that were ethnically mixed, such as San Antonio, resorted to playing down their German heritage. In towns where the main population was primarily German, the society did not receive as much outside pressure. San Antonio Germans were subjected to taunting, and often discontinued using the German language in business and at church, stopped the German instruction in schools, and de-emphasized the German traditions (Jordan 1980, Heinen 1980).

After the war, the younger generations in the German communities were encouraged to leave their cultural centers, and marry outside the ethnic group, resulting in the fairly rapid decline of interest in German heritage (Heinen 1980). Many German social and singing clubs persisted during this era, but not without a decline in their memberships. The Casino Club in San Antonio began to witness a slight decline in the membership, though not as drastic as the 1920s. The Club tried to make up for its declining membership by beginning to loosen some of its requirements.

January 16, 1920 marked the beginning of the end of the Casino Club at the location on Market and S. Presa Street. The Eighteenth Amendment went into effect on this date, which prohibited the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol. The Volstead Act, which was passed in October of 1919, prohibited the possession of alcohol and enabled the enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment. The Casino Club was hurt by the enforcement of Prohibition. The income the club received from the sale of alcohol ceased. Membership declined dramatically. Membership restrictions were loosened even more, and membership dues and initiation fees were reduced in attempt to keep the current members and attract additional ones (SACCR). The hall was rented out for gatherings, lectures, concerts, and other events that were not related to the Casino Club. The Association hoped to pull in enough revenue to keep the Casino Club open. By 1923, it was evident that the Casino Club was no longer a viable venture for the Casino Association. The building was sold to the San Antonio Water Board, and the Association began renting quarters on Nueva Street. In 1925, the Casino Association consolidated with the San Antonio Club (a German social society formed in 1882 that focused on literature) to ensure that the Casino Association did not completely dissolve. The merged clubs formed the San Antonio and Casino Clubs, which persisted until finally disbanding in 1950 (SACCR; Cameron 2007).

San Antonio Floods: 1913 and 1921

Flooding in downtown San Antonio was still a problem at the turn of the century. More people were setting up homes and businesses along the banks of the river, but often failed to realize the problems that heavy rain could cause. A drought during the later part of the Nineteenth Century and increased drilling for artesian wells limited the San Antonio River to a very small flow. The springs at San Pedro no longer

flowed during this time, and garbage and sewage began piling up on the river bed (Fisher 2007). The City of San Antonio began a River Beautification campaign to stop the depositing of waste in the river, as well as create a park like atmosphere in some downtown areas along the river. Active clearing of the river channel started to meet some opposition by 1905. Though a few bouts of intense rain brought the river level up again, by 1910 the river was down to a trickle again. City groups lobbied to beautify the river once again, this time talks of channelizing the river were on the table as well. In 1912, new Mayor, Augustus Jones, started to put the planning into action. Though he passed away eight months after taking office, work on the river walls to aid in flood prevention continued. Work on the river was halted during the last three months of 1913. Rain during the last days of September caused the River to raise two to four feet per hour, and soon flooded St. Mary's Street and Houston Street, cresting at three feet (Fisher 2007). The water from the rising river flooded basements and boiler rooms, and in some cases first floors, of buildings located in downtown San Antonio. Shortly after recovering from this flooding episode, San Antonio was hit again in early December. Once again the San Antonio jumped its banks and flooded basements and ground floors of downtown businesses. This second flood of the year prompted officials to further consider the placement of a dam in Olmos Basin to prevent flooding in downtown (Fisher 2007).

Lack of state and federal funding prevented any drastic means of preparing the city for future flooding in the years to come. In 1920, the city hired an engineering firm (Metcalf & Eddy) to assess and advise on the prevention of flooding. The firm advised that the narrow width of the river, the lack of a dam, and debris cluttering the riverbed were major problems that needed to be addressed to aid in flood prevention. What had been done, which included lining a portion of the river with a wooden retaining wall, would not prevent the possibility of future flooding. The engineering firm recommended the widening and deepening of the current channel, the elimination of six bends in the rivers, and the construction of a dam at Olmos Basin (Fisher 2007). Actions on these recommendations did not start in time to prevent the damage caused by the next big flood.

Early in the second week of September in 1921, remnants of a hurricane that hit near Tampico, Mexico that had slowed into a tropical storm headed directly for San Antonio. Heavy thunderstorms and intense winds arrived in San Antonio on Friday September 9. When the first wave of thunderstorms diminished three hours later, the river had already reached four feet from the top of the wooden retaining walls. By midnight, the river had engulfed St. Mary's Street to a depth of more than six feet at the Travis Street intersection. The Gunther Hotel was flooded to just about the Mezzanine (Fisher 2007). It took San Antonio nearly a week before it could function again, though it took much longer to fully recover.

The San Antonio Casino Club likely did not escape flooding in 1913, though photographs confirm that floodwaters reached the building in 1921 (Figure 4-1). The added expense of trying to recover from the flood may have been another factor that ultimately led the Casino association to sell the property to the San Antonio Water Board.

San Antonio Water Board

After dealing with declining membership and the loss of income due to prohibition, the San Antonio Casino Association conveyed the property containing the Casino Club to the San Antonio Water Supply Company (San Antonio Water Board, Water Works Company) on February 1, 1923 (BCDR 707;233). The Water Board turned the building into a warehouse, altering the building in the years after (Figure 4-2). The Water Works Company had a pump house located to the west on Market Street, next to the Casino Club building (Figure 4-3), which benefited from the extra storage space the Club building would give it. The original pump house was constructed during the mid-1890s, and has been modified several times since. The Carnegie Library had been constructed to the east of the Casino Building, and would later be the first San Antonio Main Library branch and the Hertzberg Circus Museum. A 1940's aerial of the intersection of Market and Presa Street reveals the location of all three buildings: The Library, the former Casino Club, and the Water Works Pump House (Figure 4-4). The Water Board continued to use



Figure 4-1. *Photograph of floodwaters in front of the Casino Club in September, 1921. Courtesy of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 083-0051.*

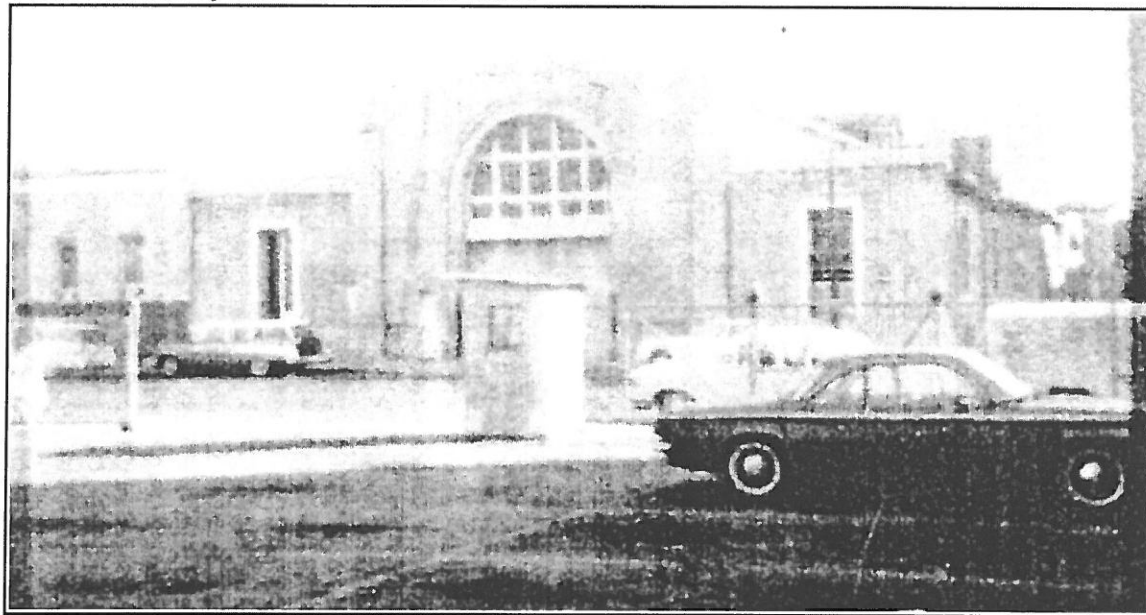


Figure 4-2. *Photograph of the Casino Club (as the Water Board warehouse) in September of 1961.*

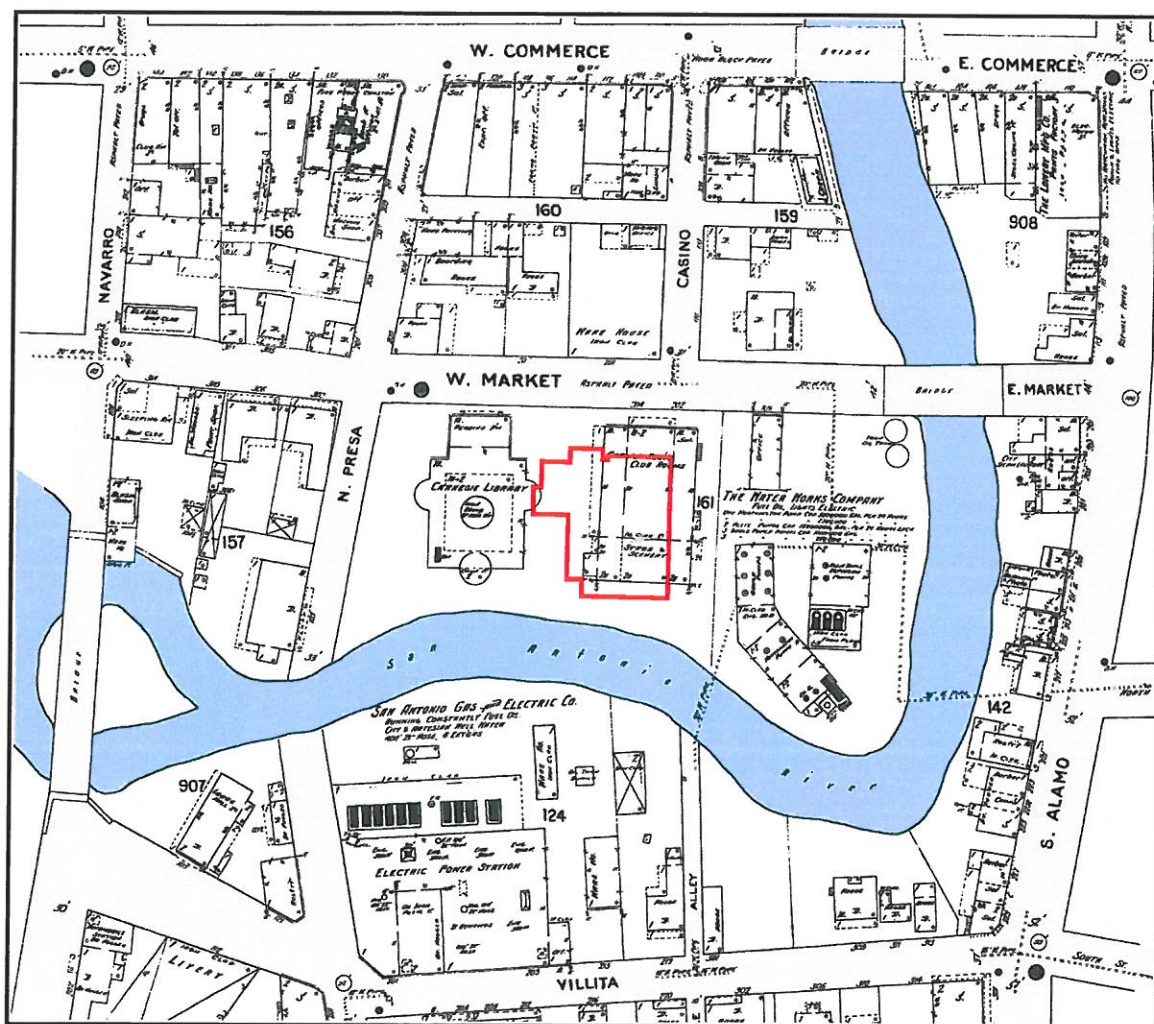


Figure 4-3. A 1904 Sanborn map showing the Casino Club with the Carnegie Library and the Water Works Company.



Figure 4-4. *A view of the project area in the early 1940's looking east from top of the Smith-Young Tower. Market Street runs diagonally across picture from the lower left to the upper right. Courtesy of UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 083-0470.*

the structure as a warehouse and office until the city began with its improvements in preparation for the Hemis-fair. By 1968, the building was razed and the plot of land was transformed into a garden park maintained by the City Water Board. The park consisted of cement walkways and a stone trellis located at the back of the property. Since 1968, the park has been kept by the Water Board, though the company is now referred to as the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) (Figure 4-5). A wall, likely constructed at the same time the park was created, still separates the property from the adjacent property which houses the empty Hertzberg Museum building (Figure 4-6). The park has remained relatively unchanged since it was created.



Figure 4-5. *Photograph of the project area today.*



Figure 4-6. *Photograph of the wall between the previous locations of the Casino Club and the Carnegie Library as it looks today.*

Chapter 5: Summary and Recommendations

The history of the property that will become part of the Briscoe Art Museum complex adds to the culturally rich picture of the development of the City of San Antonio. Located in the heart of downtown, and within very short distances from Mission San Antonio de Valero, San Fernando, and La Villita, the project area would have been commonly observed in everyday passing. As part of the *El Potrero*, the property may have been utilized for small farming and as pastureland for local livestock. Though not much is known about the use of the property in the founding years of San Antonio, it became a popular spot in the mid-1800s.

The mid-nineteenth century in San Antonio was marked by an increase in population. The ethnic diversity of the city dramatically grew with Texas gaining independence from Mexico, after the end of the Civil War, and once again with the introduction of the railroad to the town. German settlers started arriving in San Antonio during the mid-portion of the nineteenth century. They tended to settle in their own community, and rarely ever moved out, though they may have been economically successful to be able to. Rather, the German society held to their traditions, and promoted the promulgation of the traditions through various social clubs. In 1856, a group of German men organized the San Antonio Casino Association. This was a social club for German men, to be used to socialize, conduct business, and focus on the arts. By 1858, the Association had purchased the property of NCB 161 Lots 12 and 13 and began construction of the Casino Club. The Club provided the men a place to meet, drink, and gamble. The Casino Club also hosted functions such as lectures, plays and concerts that could be attended by the families of the Club members. Several times a year, the Casino Club would host balls for the members' families, with the New Year's Eve Ball being the premier event each year.

The Casino Club served the German community in San Antonio for 68 years before the property was sold to the San Antonio Water Board. Prohibition hurt the club's finances. The income that they normally had brought in daily from the men frequenting the bar was wiped out. Membership began to decline. By the end of September of 1921, the entire city was trying to recover from the devastating effects of flooding. The future of the Casino Association depended on the sale of the Casino Club building, and the merging with the San Antonio Literary Club. The San Antonio and Casino Clubs persisted until the 1950s.

The City Water Board turned the Casino Club building into a warehouse with a few offices. Renovations on the structure were done in the years after the city purchased the property. During the late 1960s, San Antonio was abuzz with preparations for the Hemis-fair. The old Casino Club building became a casualty in the effort to beautify the city for the Hemis-fair. By 1968, the building was torn down, and the property was converted into a garden maintained by the City Water Board. Today, the project area is still maintained as a park area located next to the old Carnegie Library that later became the Hertzberg Museum until 2001.

The history of the Casino Club on Lot 12 and the reconstruction of the types and location of structures that previously stood on Lot 11 is critical because it can help us to determine the extent (i.e., size, location and depth) of disturbances within the lots to be impacted by the proposed construction of the New Building.

We have already discussed in Chapter 3 that the addition of the western wing to the Casino Club had a basement and therefore the portion of the proposed New Building footprint that falls over the western wing of the Casino Club building is highly disturbed (Figure 5-1). In addition, although we do not know if the eastern wing and the central portion of the former Casino Club also had a basement, it is likely that much of that area also has been extensively disturbed first by the construction and subsequently the demolition of the Casino Club.

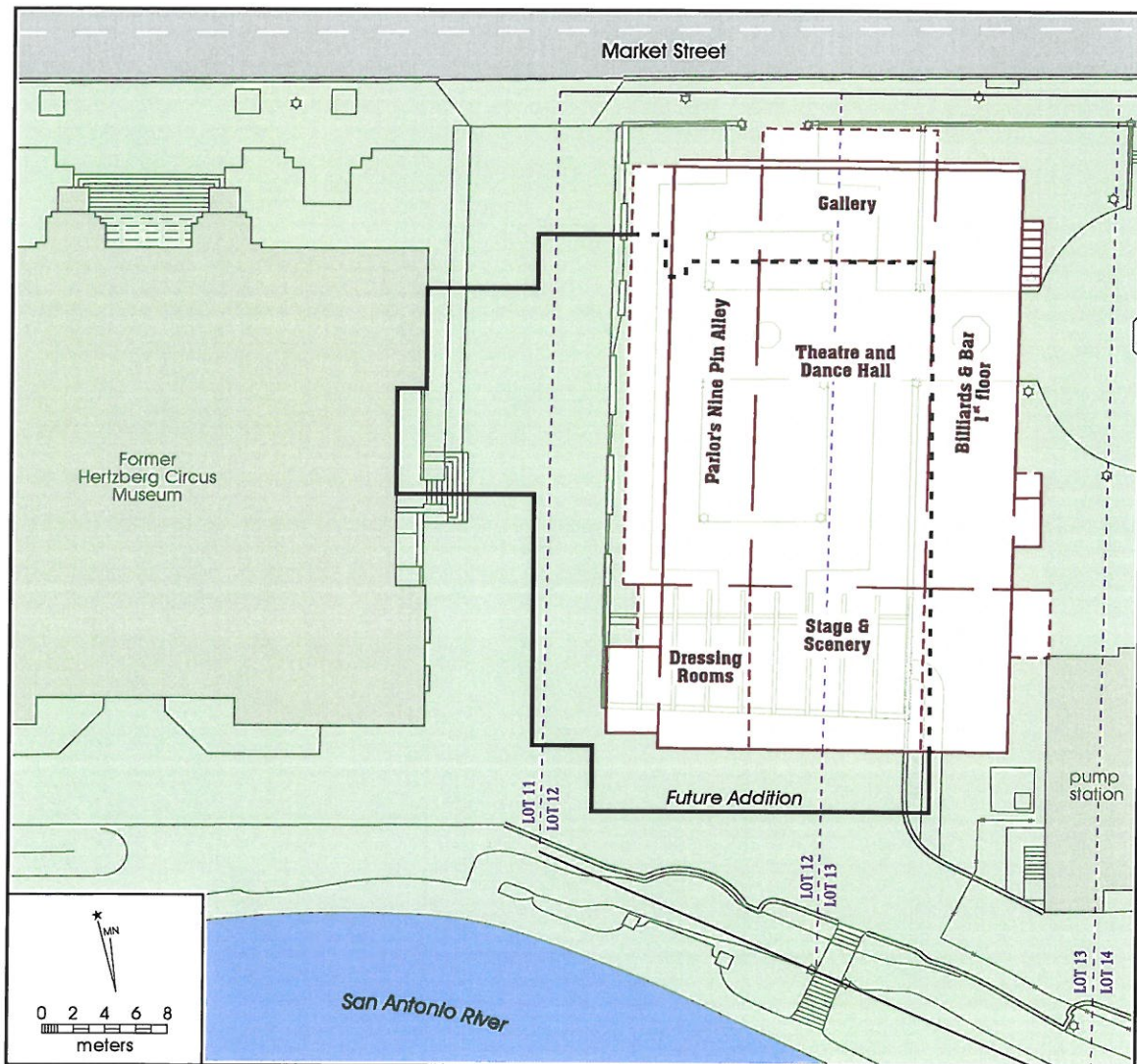


Figure 5-1. Location of the Casino Club on Lots 12 and 13 within the current project area.

Based on these conclusions, it is likely that the proposed construction of the New Building would impact intact deposits, if present, only in the area falling west of the Casino Club footprint. In Chapter 3 we have already indicated that it is difficult to reconstruct what buildings stood immediately west of the Casino Club on Lot 11. A comparison of the 1888 Sanborn with the 1904 Sanborn (not shown here) indicates that the cluster of three structures at the northeast corner of Lot 11 was impacted and likely demolished to make room for the former Hertzberg Library Building. It also is possible that the two small buildings (likely sherds) shown on the 1888 Sanborn adjacent to the stone wall between Lots 11 and 12 were demolished around the same time.

When we superimpose the locations of the historic structures shown on the Sanborn maps onto a map showing the outline of the Hertzberg Library Building and the former Casino Club (Figure 5-2), it is clear that only a narrow strip of undisturbed area may remain between the former footprint of the Casino Club and the Hertzberg Building.

In addition to these disturbances, sometime during the early 20th century, the San Antonio Water Systems installed a water main or sewer line running from Market Street toward the River through the approximate center of this undisturbed area. The exact date of the installation could not be determined (Jorge Monserrate SAWS Personal Communication, 2007). However, it is expected that the hand-dug trench would have been minimally five feet wide, using today's installation standards.

In summary, the composite picture that emerges from the consideration of the historic and early 20th century disturbances is that only narrow strips of undisturbed deposits may remain in the proposed project area, and particularly within the area that will be directly impacted by the footprint of the proposed new building (Figure 5-2).

Building construction specifications provided to the CAR indicate that five feet of existing soil will have to be removed and replaced with appropriate fill during the preparations of the pad prior to construction. The area to be prepared will extend roughly three feet beyond the footprint of the proposed building. Figure 5-2, as well as all other figures showing the outline of the New Building, present the entire construction area to be impacted.

In summary, the map of previous disturbances and proposed building footprint shows only limited areas that may contain undisturbed deposits. Nonetheless, the possibility that small pockets of undisturbed deposits may exist within the proposed project limits, in combination with the proximity of the location to the San Antonio River and the lack of previous archaeological surveys within the area suggest that archaeological monitoring of the removal of soils to the required five foot depth should be carried out within the area to be impacted by the building footprint. This action is recommended based on our conclusion that some intact deposits may have escaped historic and modern construction activities in the area and because pockets of significant buried archeological deposits that have contributed extensively to our understanding of San Antonio history have been found in other highly developed parts of the City, including the recently constructed San Fernando Community Center in downtown San Antonio (Figueroa and Mauldin 2005).

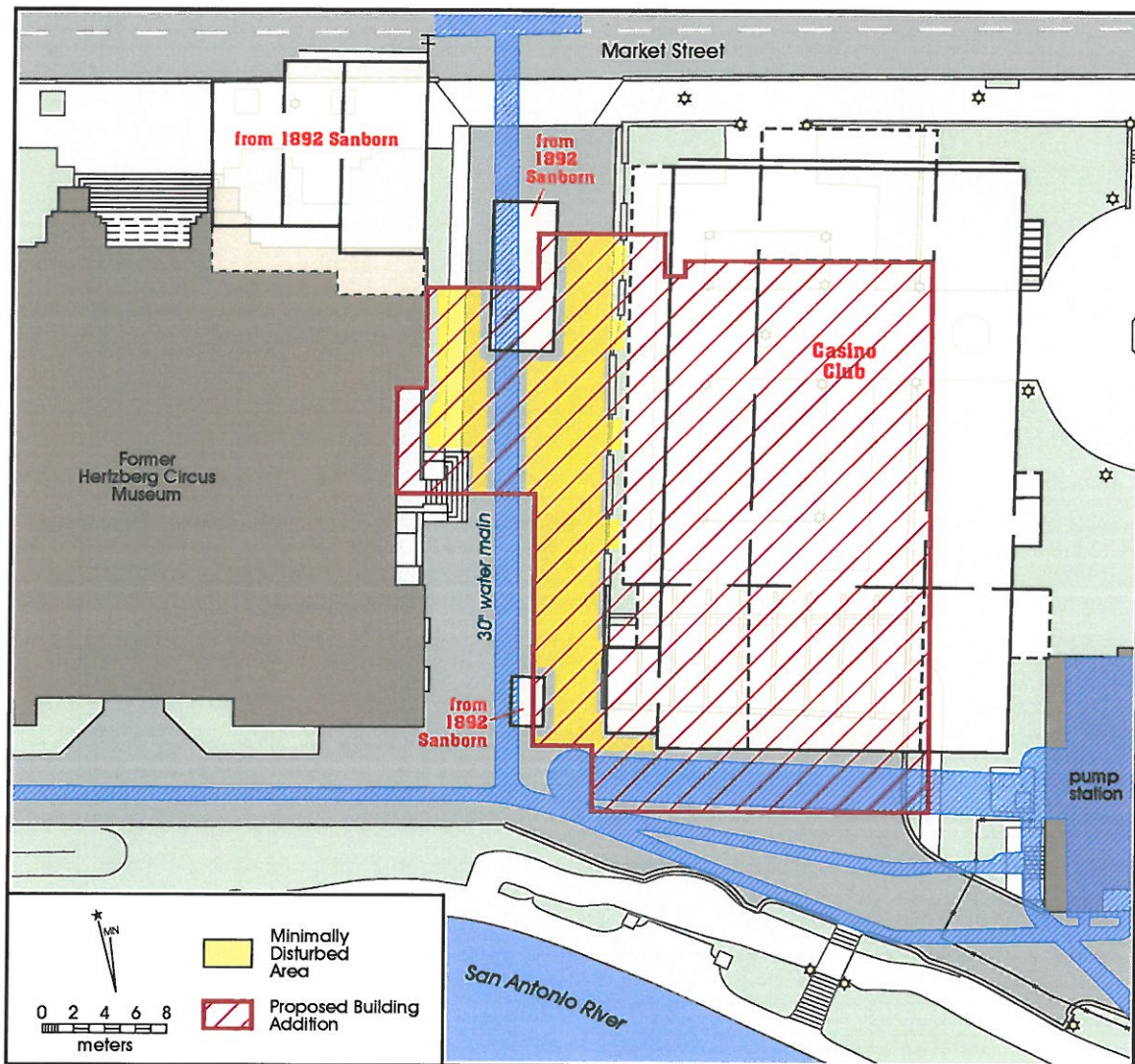


Figure 5-2. Areas of minimal disturbance remaining within the new building footprint.

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Floodwaters around Casino Club on Market Street. From postcard. Inscription on back: "Flooding scenes in San Antonio, in Sept. 1921." Courtesy of Ilse Griffith.

081-0515; UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 081-0515.

Exterior of Casino Club with wooden fence in foreground and people seated on steps. San Antonio, Texas, date unknown. Courtesy of Thomas W. Cutrer.

076-0157; UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 076-0157.

Photograph of the Casino Hall, San Antonio, Texas, as it appeared in September, 1961 as a City Water Board warehouse. Courtesy of S.W. Pease.

083-0470; UTSA's Institute of Texan Cultures, 083-0470.

Looking east from top of Smith-Young Tower. Market Street runs diagonally across picture from lower left to top right. San Antonio Public Library, bottom center. San Antonio River and Arneson River Theater at bottom right. San Antonio, Texas, early 1940's. Courtesy of estate of Robert Moss Ayres.